

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as noted below and as clearly explained in the accompanying Appendix:

86. (Twice Amended) A method of processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method comprising the steps of generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the processed video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval; and setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce said processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.

91. (Amended) The method of claim 86 wherein said copy generation data is a plural bit signal.

92. (Twice Amended) A video signal record medium having recorded thereon a video signal comprised of line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information and copy generation information, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information; said copy protection information including copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the recorded video signal; and said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation information being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval.

97. (Amended) The record medium of claim 92 wherein said copy generation information is a plural bit signal.

98. (Twice Amended) A method of recording a video signal that may be selectively copied, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful

picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method comprising the steps of generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval; setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information; and recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

103. (Amended) The method of claim 98 wherein said copy generation data is a plural bit signal.

104. (Twice Amended) A method of selectively recording a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets

being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said method comprising the steps of detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information; modifying the copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

105. (Amended) The method of claim 104 wherein said step of modifying the copy generation information comprises generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy

generation information, and superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105 further comprising the steps of regenerating the detected copyright information, and superposing said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal.

111. (Amended) The method of claim 104 wherein said copy generation information is a plural bit signal.

112. (Twice Amended) A method of reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether successive generations of copies can be made from said video signal, said method comprising the steps of playing back said video signal from a record medium; detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from said played back video signal; setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits in said second set of data bits which are associated with and classified by said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set

of data bits being included in the same line interval of vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data, and said second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number; and disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

117. (Amended) The method of claim 112 wherein said copy generation data is a plural bit signal.

118. (Amended) The method of claim 112 wherein said copy protection information comprises recorded copyright information data and recorded copy generation data, both included in VBID data in the non-picture portion of the video signal on said record medium, and both being detected to cause the detected copyright information data and copy generation data to be set in said second set of data bits in the VBID data of said played back video signal.

119. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable

picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the processed video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval and means for setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce said processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.

124. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 119 wherein said copy generation data is a plural bit signal.

125. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for recording a video signal that may be selectively copied, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of the

number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval; means for setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information; and means for recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

130. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 125 wherein said copy generation data is a plural bit signal.

131. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for selectively recording a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of



successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said apparatus comprising means for detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information; means for modifying the copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and means for selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

132. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 131 wherein said means for modifying the copy generation information comprises means for generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and means for superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

138. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 131 wherein said copy generation information is a plural bit signal.

139. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether successive generations of copies can be made from said video signal, said apparatus comprising means for playing back said video signal from a record medium; means for detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from said played back video signal; means for setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits in said second set of data bits which are associated with and classified by said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits being superposed in vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data in the same line interval, and said second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number; and disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

144. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 139 wherein said copy generation data is a plural bit signal.

146. (Twice Amended) A method of processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method comprising the steps of generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the processed video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; and setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval, thereby to produce said processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.

148. (Twice Amended) A video signal record medium having recorded thereon a video signal comprised of line intervals, including an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first

of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information and copy generation information, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information; said copy protection information including copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the recorded video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, said copyright information data and copy generation information being superposed, along with said plural-bit mode number, in VBID data in the same line interval in said non-picture portion.

150. (Twice Amended) A method of recording a video signal that may be selectively copied, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method comprising the steps of generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to

copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval, thereby to produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information; and recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

152. (Twice Amended) A method of selectively recording a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, and when said plural-bit

mode number classifies said second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said method comprising the steps of detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information; modifying the copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

153. (Amended) The method of claim 152 wherein said step of modifying the copy generation information comprises generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

156. (Twice Amended) A method of reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether at least one successive generation of copies can be made

from said video signal when the copy protection information indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, said method comprising the steps of playing back said video signal from a record medium; detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not least one successive generation of copies can be made from said played back video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits of in said second set of data bits which are associated with and classified by said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits being included in vertical blanking interval (VBID) data in the same line interval, and said second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information depending upon the content said plural-bit mode number; and disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

159. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus

comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the processed video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and means for setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce said processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.

161. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for recording a video signal that may be selectively copied, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright



information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; means for setting said second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information; and means for recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

163. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for selectively recording a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said apparatus comprising means for detecting said

copyright information and said copy generation information; means for modifying the copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and means for selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

164. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 163 wherein said means for modifying the copy generation information comprises means for generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and means for superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

167. Twice Amended) (Apparatus for reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether at least one successive generation of copies can be made from said video signal, said apparatus comprising means for playing back said video signal from a record medium; means for detecting said copy protection information in the played back video

signal; means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from said played back video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits in said second set of data bits which are associated with and classified by said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits being superposed in vertical blanking interval (VBID) data in the same line interval, and said second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number; and means for disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.